



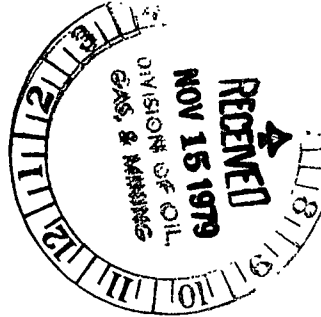
# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Richfield District Office  
150 East 900 North  
Richfield, Utah 84701

*File Copy*  
IN REPLY REFER TO  
*Platcan Res.*  
U-40379  
*Uran.* 2450/1710  
*Mill.* (U-530)

Certified Mail #162480  
Return Receipt Requested

Ronald W. Daniels  
Coordinator-Mineral Land  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
1588 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116



November 8, 1979

Dear Mr. Daniels:

A copy of a proposed decision that we have prepared in accordance with the regulations in 43 CFR 2411.1-1(c) is enclosed. This proposed decision is designated as Attachment "A". Copies of this decision are being sent to the parties listed in Attachment "B".

The proposed decision relates to the proper classification and disposition of the public land described in the second paragraph thereof. The official land report sets out the facts upon which the decision is based. A copy of the report is also enclosed.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2411.1(d), you have a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter in which you may protest or comment on this proposed decision. No particular form of protest or comment is required. You may present any information which you believe will assist the Bureau of Land Management to make a sound decision as to the proper classification or designation of the land. If you would like to come in and discuss this matter, please let me know. If you believe that a trip to the land with one of our field personnel would be helpful, we shall arrange one.

Sincerely yours,

*Ronald L. Penetration*

For the State Director

- Enclosures: (3)  
1-"A" Proposed decision (U-40379)  
2-"B" Mailing List

3-CONSERVE  
AMERICA'S  
ENERGY



Save Energy and You Serve America!

ATTACHMENT "A"  
(PROPOSED)  
CLASSIFICATION DECISION

The following described lands have been examined and found suitable for a millsite to process uranium ore and are hereby classified for disposal by Quantity Grant State Selection, pursuant to 43 CFR 2622.

T. 35 S., R. 11 E., SLM, Utah:  
Sec. 33, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
34, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 36 S., R. 11 E., SLM, Utah:  
Sec. 3, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
4, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

Containing 120 acres, more or less.

(The above townships have only a "skeleton" survey and the land described is not officially surveyed. A survey is now being made by BLM's Cadastral Engineers and the land can be conveyed after the survey is approved.)

The proposed millsite is an economical, safe and necessary location for processing uranium ore which is an energy material. It will provide work for people in a depressed area. The proposal will help to satisfy a United States obligation to the State of Utah in satisfaction of University Grant Selection No. 59.

All leasable (oil and gas) minerals will be reserved to the United States. It will be necessary for Plateau Resources to sign a disclaimer of interest to their mining claims which cover the selected area before the land can be transferred to the state.

No grazing permits or licenses will be reduced or cancelled as a result of this action.

The following State Selection application is hereby approved;

University Grant State Selection No. 59  
U-40379.

ATTACHMENT "B"

Copies of Proposed Decision are being sent to the following:

Governor's Office  
State Capitol Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Utah State Lands & Forestry  
231 East 400 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Plateau Resources, LTD.  
141 East 100 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Chairman, Garfield County Commission  
Panguitch, Utah 84759

Chairman, Wayne County Commission  
Loa, Utah 84747

Dr. Maylon Jackson  
Executive Director  
Six-County Commission Organization  
93 North Main Street  
Richfield, Utah 84701

Executive Vice-President  
Utah Mining Association  
825 Kearns Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Ronald W. Daniels  
Coordinator-Mineral Land  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
1588 West North Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Lorayne Tempest  
Assist. State Planning Coordinator  
State Clearing House  
124 State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Utah Biological Survey  
606 Black Hawk Way  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

John T. Alexander  
Teasdale, Utah 84773

Lewis Blackburn  
Fremont, Utah 84727

Hugh V. King & Sons  
Teasdale, Utah 84773

C. Meeks Morrell  
Bicknell, Utah 84715

Elwood Morrell  
Bicknell, Utah 84715

Evan Taylor  
Fremont, Utah 84727

Dwight S. Williams  
Teasdale, Utah 84773

Dyle D. Williams  
Teasdale, Utah 84773

Everett Williams  
Teasdale, Utah 84773

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

LAND REPORT TITLE PAGE

State UTAH		District RICHFIELD	
County GARFIELD		Resource area HENRY MOUNTAIN	Planning Unit HENRY MOUNTAIN
Type of Action STATE SELECTION NO. 59			Serial Number U-40379
Applicant's name STATE OF UTAH DIVISION OF STATE LANDS		Address (include zip code) 105 State Capitol Building Salt Lake City, UT 84114	

Date(s) of examination

LANDS INVOLVED

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	MERIDIAN	SECTION	SUBDIVISION	ACRES
T 35 S	R 11 E	SLM	33	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	60
			34	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	60
T 36 S	R 11 E	SLM	3	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	40
			4	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	<div>120</div> <div>Containing 280 Acres</div>

Purpose of report

To determine suitability of land for disposition  
under State Selection #59

Prepared by <i>Charlotte L. Walrath</i> Charlotte L. Walrath	Title Realty Specialist	Date of report Oct 12, 1979
--	----------------------------	--------------------------------

Land Report Title Page

Table of Contents

- I. Description of the Land Action
- II. General Information and Background Data
  - A. Area Analysis
  - B. Planning Recommendation and Other Considerations
- III. Site Data
  - A. Land Status
  - B. Location and Identification
  - C. Access
  - D. Physical Description and Environmental Considerations
  - E. Ownership and Land Use on Adjoining Lands
  - F. Land Use Capabilities of Subject Land
    - 1. Historical Uses
    - 2. Present Uses
    - 3. Projected Land Use and the Proposed Action
- IV. Land Use Analysis
  - A. Proposed Action
- V. Recommendation and Rationale
  - 1. Recommendation
  - 2. Rationale
  - 3. Stipulations

## I. DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND ACTION

On May 9, 1978, the Utah State Division of Lands filed University Grant Selection No. 59 for 280 acres in Garfield County, Utah. This application was filed in behalf of Plateau Resources who operate a uranium mine in Shootering Canyon near the selected land. The purpose of the selection is to obtain a mill site to process the uranium ore mined in the vicinity. The only alternative to the proposal would be to refuse the application. There are no known alternate mill sites.

## II. GENERAL INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND DATA

### A. Area Analysis

1. Characteristics - The subject lands are located approximately 13 miles north of Bullfrog Basin Marina and 48 miles south of Hanksville, Utah. A new town, Ticaboo, is planned on a site 2½ miles south of the subject land.

The land is located just south of the Henry Mountains and north and west of Lake Powell. The San Rafael Desert exists from Lake Powell north beyond Hanksville.

2. Social Factors - The subject land is located in Garfield County which had an estimated population of 3600 in 1977. The main population of Garfield County is located in the Sevier River Valley west of the subject land. The subject land and that part of Garfield County north of Bullfrog is more economically

tied to Wayne County than Garfield County. Wayne County had an estimated population of 1800 in 1977, of which 70 percent live in the western part of the county.

Bullfrog Basin has a high summer population (at the peak of the tourist season 250 people), but only a few permanent residents (115) stay there year around. Hanksville population has been about 410. The uranium mine camp in Shootering Canyon has a current population of about 154, of which approximately half live permanently in the camp and the remainder commute on a regular schedule. A great population increase in the area is not anticipated except for the employees of the uranium mines and the mill.

The area is served by State Highway 276, and State Highway 95 which joins State Highway 24 at Hanksville. There are two paved air strips in the area, one at Hanksville and one at Bullfrog. There is no commercial air or bus service to the area and all transportation is by private automobile.

Nearly all of the land in the area is Public Land administered by the BLM and the National Park Service, except for a few small scattered parcels of private land around the Henry Mountains and a small area near Hanksville. Other than Federal land, the only other major land owner is the State of Utah.



The major land use is livestock grazing, except for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area where the principal use is recreation. Lake Powell is a popular reservoir for boating and fishing. In 1977 an estimated 282,000 people visited the recreation area. In the past two years mining has increased and is another principal use of land in the vicinity.

Electrical power is furnished by Garkane Power in Wayne County but the area near Bullfrog Basin has to depend on local generators. Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Service serves Hanksville, while Continental Telephone of the West, Moab, Utah, serves Bullfrog Basin, and Beehive Telephone Co, Inc. of Grouse Creek, Utah, serves Ticaboo and Shootering Canyon.

3. Economic Factors - The economy of the area is based mainly on local recreation; Lake Powell and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area provide unlimited recreation activities. The uranium mines in Shootering Canyon and other mining ventures also have a big impact on the area's economy. Although these activities contribute to the economics of the State as a whole, the biggest contribution to local economy is livestock. Government employees also contribute quite a bit to the local economy.

B. Planning Recommendation and Other Considerations

1. Federal, State, or local programs. The disposal of the subject lands to the State of Utah will not have an effect on any Federal, State, or local programs.
2. Local Ordinances. Garfield County, Kane County, and Wayne County do not have zoning ordinances.
3. BLM Planning. No MFP has been written for the area. Disposal of this land to the State is consistent with BLM planning for the area.

III. SITE DATA

A. Land Status

1. Both surface and mineral estates are Federally owned and controlled.

2. Rights-of-Way

Beehive Telephone Company has filed right-of-way application No. 40390, which crosses portions of Section 3 and 4 of T 36 S, R 11 E, and would provide telephone service to the mill complex. This right-of-way has been granted.

Plateau Resources, Ltd. has filed tramroad right-of-way application U-40535, which crosses the northeast corner of the selected lands in Section 34 of T 35 S, R 11 E. This tramroad is expected to be the main access route from Utah State Highway 276 to the proposed mill and Plateau's mining complex in Shootering Canyon.

3. Mineral estates - Oil and Gas Leases No. U-36965 and U-36970 encompass the subject lands.

4. Restrictions - Preliminary land classifications. The subject land was classified for multiple use management on February 1, 1968 (U-3484). This class segregated the land under the agricultural land laws.

5. Mining locations - There are several mining claims located on the subject land. These claims are described in the mineral report attached to the case files.

6. Grazing - The subject land lies within the Rockies Grazing Allotment administered by the BLM.

B. Location and Identification

The subject land was located by using 15 minute quad and by locating with corner common to Secs. 33, 34, T. 35 S, R 11 E, and Secs. 3 and 4, T 36 S, R 11 E. The attached map shows the location of the subject lands in relation to prominent landmarks and other identifying features.

C. Access

The subject land is located about one mile west of Utah State Highway 276 and is accessible by rough road accessible only by 4-wheel drive vehicle.

D. Physical Description and Environmental Considerations

Soils - The soils are a shallow rocky sandy form not suitable for cultivation of any type.

Topography - The general topography is dominated by bluffs and mesas intersected by deeply incised drainage channels. The elevation of the subject land is about 4700 to 4900 foot range above sea level. The western boundary of the selected lands lies along a butte that rises some 600 feet above the surrounding terrain. The remainder of the selected lands are generally flat benches which have been dissected in varying degrees by drainage patterns.

Water - There are no permanent streams on the subject land, but groundwater is a potential source of water supply in the vicinity. Depth of water is usually about 200 feet.

Climate - The climate in this area is arid, with an estimated annual precipitation of 5.35 inches. Summer temperatures are hot and winter temperatures are moderate. It is usual for temperatures in the summer to be nearly 100<sup>0</sup> F, and lows in the winter to be near zero degrees F.

Vegetation - The dominant vegetative type is desert shrub. The vegetation is black brush, mormon tea, snakewood, Indian rice grass, desert sage, and other miscellaneous forbes, grasses, and shrubs. (Page 2-22 Final Environmental Statement by U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission dated July 1979). There are no known Threatened and Endangered plant species.

Wildlife - Except for rodents, reptiles, a few rabbits, the wildlife of the subject land is very limited. There are no known Threatened and Endangered wildlife on the subject land.

Visual Resources - The area around the subject land has been classified as VRM Class II.

Cultural Resources - There are no known archaeological or other cultural resources on the subject land.

Recreation Resources - The subject land has no special value for recreation resources.

Wilderness Resources - The subject land lacks wilderness characteristics and has not been recommended for inventory.

Flood Plains - The subject land is not on a flood plain.

E. Ownership and Land Use on Adjoining Lands

The adjoining land is owned and administered by the Bureau of Land Management. It is in the Rockies Grazing Allotment where the following operators are permitted to graze livestock from November through May each year:

John T. Alexander, Teasdale, UT 84773  
Lewis Blackburn, Fremont, UT 84727  
Hugh V. King & Sons, Teasdale, UT 84773  
Meeks C. Morrell, Bicknell, UT 84715  
Elwood Morrell, Bicknell, UT 84715  
Evan Taylor, Fremont, UT 84727  
Dwight S. Williams, Teasdale, UT 84773  
Dyle D. Williams, Teasdale, UT 84773  
Everett Williams, Teasdale, UT 84773

F. Land Use Capabilities of Subject Land

1. Historical Uses - In the past the subject land has been used almost exclusively for grazing and limited small wildlife habitat.
2. Present Uses - Grazing and limited small wildlife habitat.
3. Projected Land Use and the Proposed Action - The State of Utah has made this application to provide Plateau Resources, Inc. a site for their uranium mill. The subject land is suitable for such a use and with uranium mines within just a few miles there is a demand for land to be used for a processing mill site for uranium ore.

#### IV. LAND USE ANALYSIS

##### Proposed Action

The subject State Selection application was made to provide a site for a uranium mill to be constructed by Plateau Resources, Inc. The action is compatible with BLM programs and Federal, State, and local land use plans. Implementation would not seriously impact livestock grazing as the AUM loss would be insignificant.

The proposed uranium mill would provide jobs for people living in east Garfield and Wayne Counties. These two counties are generally economically depressed and have a higher rate of unemployment than the rest of the state.

The proceeds the State derives from the sale of this land to Plateau Resources will go to the maintenance of the University of Utah and thus benefit the State's higher education system. Quality grants are an obligation of the United States to the State of Utah and transfer of these lands will help to satisfy that obligation.

The land is needed by Plateau Resources to process uranium ore mined in the vicinity and in the southeastern part of the State of Utah. The land is physically suited to the proposed use.

V. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

1. Recommendation Statement

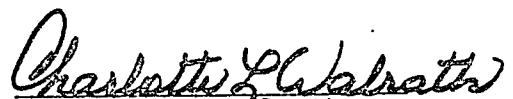
It is recommended that the lands described in State Selection No 59, U-40379, be classified as suitable for disposition subject to the attached stipulations.

2. Rationale

The subject land is physically suitable for the intended use and the proposed project is technically feasible. No cultural resource values are present and the area does not have wilderness character. The land is not of national significance and not essential to any Bureau of Land Management program. The State plans to sell the subject lands to Plateau Resources for a mill site to process uranium ore. A mill on the site will have a beneficial impact on the local economy. Therefore, the land may be classified for disposition by State Selection No. 59. The grant classification would be consistent with the criteria of 43 CFR 2410.1 (a) - (d).

Date: October 12, 1979

Signature:

  
Charlotte L. Walrath  
Realty Specialist



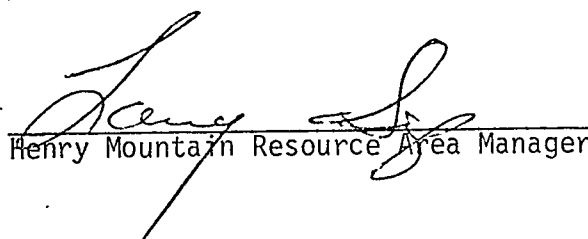
STIPULATIONS:

1. It is recommended that the United States reserve the oil and gas to preserve the rights of existing lessees and to allow for future leasing considerations by the Bureau of Land Management.
2. It will be necessary for Plateau Resources to sign the Disclaimer of Interest to those unpatented mining claims that currently blanket the selected lands. This disclaimer should be signed at the time of patenting the lands to the University of Utah.
3. Approximately 26,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel material and 86,000 cubic yards of sandy filter material lie on the selected lands. It is recommended that the United States specifically reserve sand and gravel in the patent.

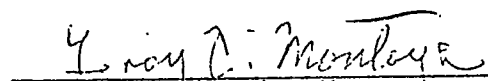
These stipulations appear on Page 10 in the Mineral Character Report dated November 16, 1978, by Charles Horsburgh, Richfield District Geologist.

We, the undersigned, have reviewed the Land Report for the State Selection No. 59, Number U-40379, dated 12 October 1979. It is technically adequate and all resource values have been considered to the best of our knowledge.

I (☒) do (☐) do not concur with the recommendations made.

  
Henry Mountain Resource Area Manager      Date 10/15/79

I (☐) do (☐) do not concur with the recommendations made.

*acting*   
Richfield District Manager      Date 11/6/79

DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE FOR UNIVERSITY GRANT SELECTION NO. 59

DECISION: I have determined to proceed with the proposed action as it is described in the accompanying EAR. That is to permit the transfer of land to the State of Utah as requested by Charles R. Hansen, Director, Division of State Lands, Utah, in University Grant Selection No. 59.

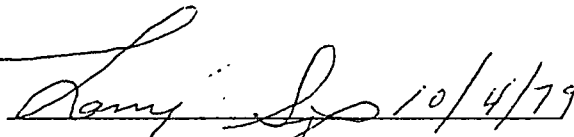
RATIONALE: The benefits gained from transferring the lands will be social and economical. The transfer will provide an economical, safe and necessary location for processing energy materials.

The proposed mill site will provide work for people in a county that is economically depressed and generally has a higher rate of unemployment than the rest of the state.

The funds that the state will derive from the sale of the land to Plateau Resources will go toward the maintenance of the University of Utah, thus benefitting higher education.

The acquisition of this land will allow Plateau Resources to place their mill site in an area that is better suited to processing ore than their present mill site. The present site is located in a large drainage that is subject to flash floods and presents a hazard to both lives and property.

The transfer of land to the State of Utah in itself will have no significant impact on the land, but the eventual sale and transfer of the land to Plateau Resources for a mill site are thoroughly discussed in the Environmental Statement for Shooter Canyon Uranium Project, written by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Docket No. 40-8698.

  
Larry Sip, Area Manager